

and has been proven to reduce crime, especially violent crime. A 2005 study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the C.O.P.S. program contributed to a 1.3 percent decline in the overall crime rate and a 2.5 percent reduction in the violent crime rate in 8 years.

But like a patient that stops taking the medication once it starts working, the Bush administration has been taking a step back in law enforcement and homeland security in its effort to gut the program. We must not rest on our laurels and declare, "Mission Accomplished." The President has declared we live in an age of terrorism, and expanding the police force and providing our local and state governments with resources to combat crime and terrorism should remain a priority. But for years, with the backing of the Republican-led Congress, the President has sought to cut or eliminate funding for the program.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Bush administration is proposing to cut the C.O.P.S. program by over 94 percent compared to 2007. Congress appropriated \$542 million for the program in FY07, and the President is proposing only \$32 million for FY08. The yearly program funding once peaked at \$1.4 billion dollars per year under the Clinton administration. It has resulted in the hiring of nearly 120,000 police officers and has prevented over 200,000 crimes since its inception. In contrast, the Bush administration's proposal offers zero funding for community based prosecutors, zero funding for crime fighting technologies, and only \$4 million for policing and public safety grants.

Instead of providing funding for more cops on the beat, the President is handing the C.O.P.S. program a bill for funds unspent in previous years. The \$32 million budget request, minus the \$87 million the Administration is hoping to get back from the C.O.P.S. program, results in negative funding for community policing. Proponents of weakening the program will attempt to explain that the C.O.P.S. program is duplicative, but a review of the Bush administration's FY08 budget request reveals that the administration also is reducing funding for those other programs as well. It makes no sense to eviscerate the successful C.O.P.S. program or roll it into a block grant, particularly when Department of Justice estimates are showing a rise in crime.

As it seeks to eliminate the C.O.P.S. program, the Bush administration is pursuing a misguided goal. I commend Congressman WEINER (D-NY) for bringing this bill forward today, I strongly support the C.O.P.S. program, and I urge adoption of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS BENNETT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Bennett, who died last week at 84 years young.

I met Bill and his wife, Marty, when I decided to run for Congress more than 20 years ago. We shared a love of politics, a dedication to our communities and country, and a love and dedication to our families.

Born in West Virginia, Bill Bennett came to California while serving in the U.S. Navy. Like

many who venture to the Golden State, he fell in love and stayed. After being discharged from the Navy, Bill joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department. It would prove to be one of his long-term commitments. He retired from the Department 31 years later as Assistant Chief, in 1980.

Another of his long-term commitments was to Marty. They married in 1951 and partnered in life for the next 56 years.

In 1965, Bill and Marty moved with their children to Thousand Oaks, which I have represented for the better part of my congressional career. They became involved in their church, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and many other aspects of their community. Bill served on the board of the former Timber School District, Community Leaders Club, Republican Central Committee, Ventura County Grand Jury, Ventura County Planning Committee, Neighborhood Watch, and many other community organizations, for which he was duly recognized. He also became a supporter and friend to me.

At the same time Bill was making his community a better place, he dedicated himself to being a loving father and husband. In addition to Marty, Bill leaves behind daughter, Sue and her husband, Kim Force; daughter, Nancy and her husband, Jim Berg; daughter, Bonnie; and son Tom and his wife, Jane. Bill and Marty also have seven grandchildren, Michael, Christopher, Joshua, Brian, Janelle, Jilee and Justine; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Emily.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering William Thomas Bennett as a good friend, a loving family man, and a lover of life, whose talents helped to make our community stronger. In addition, I know they join me in extending our condolences to Marty and their family and to all who called Bill a friend.

Godspeed, Bill.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the COPS Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1700). This critical piece of legislation is needed to revitalize the highly successful COPS program and will allow communities in Rhode Island and across the country to hire additional police officers and improve security.

This important initiative was created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration to help local law enforcement agencies hire thousands of additional police officers nationwide. COPS funding has helped police agencies in Rhode Island to hire 385 police officers, and today's measure will allow us to hire an additional 185 officers.

The COPS program takes an innovative approach to aiding local law enforcement agencies through its commitment to community-oriented policing and has proven successful in reducing crime. Unfortunately, in the past few years the Bush Administration and Republican-led Congress have continued to slash funding for this vital program, and the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would elimi-

nate it altogether. I am proud to support a measure that halts this trend and reinstates funding for this vital program.

The COPS Reauthorization Act will establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and reauthorize hiring programs for officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, and engage in counterterrorism duties. This bill will also provide additional funding for police agencies to purchase lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. Finally, reauthorizing the COPS program will increase funding for critical community prosecuting programs.

Enhancing and fully funding COPS programs will give our local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

JAMES A. LEACH FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1505 to designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach Federal Building."

James Leach was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1942. Representing Iowa, he served in the House of Representatives for 30 years. Mr. Leach is a man of great honor, serving his state and country nobly, admirably and tirelessly. Mr. Leach was a career public servant, chairing several Committees during his time in Congress.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Leach respected individual rights, choices and freedoms and voted to protect them. In the 109th Congress, I had the good fortune of working with him on the International Relations Committee where he spoke often for dignity of mankind and human rights. Jim was a caring and compassionate hands on person who led a congressional delegation to western Indonesia after the December 26th, 2004 tsunami where he witnessed one of the most traumatic natural disasters in the past several centuries. His work was instrumental in securing disaster relief funds for this devastated area.

Mr. Leach holds eight honorary degrees, has received decorations from two foreign governments, and is the recipient of the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University, the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association, and the Edger Wayburn Award from the Sierra Club. In 2000, the Independent Bankers Association honored James Leach by creating "The James A. Leach Leadership Award", named for the Iowa Congressman. Mr. Leach served as chairman of the House Banking Committee from 1995 to 2001. The James A. Leach Leadership Award honors bankers for outstanding service to the banking industry. These examples exemplify his respect as a person and public servant.